(b) what was the rate of increase during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During the period of nine weeks ending June 2, 1984, the wholesale price index went up by 2.76 per cent reflecting mainly the seasonal pressures. The increases in the corresponding period of last three years were 4.72 per cent in 1983, 2.17 per cent in 1982 and 2.92 per cent in 1981.

Income Tax Assessees in the Country

183. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of income-tax assessees in the country as on the 31st March, 1982, 1983 and 1984;

(b) how many out of them were in the income group ranging below Rs. 25,000; between Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000; between 50,000 to 1 lakh; between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs and above Rs. 5 lakhs during the above period, year-wise; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to expedite the assessments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) The total number of effective income-tax assessees in the books of the Department as on 31-3-1982, 31-3-1983 and 31-3-1984 is as under:—

As on	No. of effective Income-tax assessee
31-3-1982 . . .	46,60,865
31-3-1983 . . .	47,97,260
31-3-1984 . . .	49,29,559

(b) The break-up of the above figures as on 31-3-1982 and 31-3-1983 is as under:—

	As on 31-3-1982	31-3-1983
Below taxable limit .	11,44,361	11,84,320
Above taxable limit but upto Rs. 25,000/-	22,05,026	22,65,888
Rs 25,001 to 50,000 .	9,56,673	9,74,628
Rs. 50,001 to 1,00,000	2,90,419	3,05,737
Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs . . .	58,859	61,437
Above Rs. 5,00,000 .	5,527	5,250
	46,60,865	47,97,260

The break-up of figures as on 31-3-1984 is not readily available.

(c) with a view to expedite the disposal of income-tax assessments with the manpower available, the Board have issued instructions that salary cases with returned income upto Rs. 50,000 and non-salary cases with returned income upto Rs. 25,000, subject to certain exceptions, will be completed without any checking of any sort.

Dues to 20 top industrial houses to the Public Financial Institutions

184. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount accumulated dues to the public financial institutions from each of the 20 top industrial houses as on 31-3-1984; and

(b) what are the comparative figures as on March 31, 1981, 1982 and 1983?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) The information readily available relating to the amount of arrears due from each of the top 20 large industrial houses to the all